

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0600

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LY, EG

SUBJ: QADHAFI'S LATEST MISADVENTURE IN CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 2894

1. FACT THAT QADHAFI DID NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCES OR STATEMENTS ON HIS SEPT 28-29 TRIP TO EGYPT DID NOT GO UNNOTICED HERE. AT VARIOUS TIMES HE WAS SCHEDULED, ACCORDING OFFICIAL LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, TO ADDRESS LIBYAN STUDENTS AT ALEXANDRIA, ATTEND NASSER MEMORIAL CEREMONIES CAIRO, AND JOIN IN OPENING OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. IN THE EVENT, HE DID NONE OF THESE THINGS AND ONLY VISITED MRYBM NASSER.
2. EXPLANATION PROVIDED REFTTEL RINGS TRUE TO US TOO. IF TRUE, THE GYPTIAN/LIBYAN UNION IDEA IS EVEN MORE OBVIOUSLY MORIBUND THAN IT HAS LOOKED SINCE AUGUST 29.

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3. ONLY OTHER EXPLANATION THAT OCCURS TO US IS THE SUPPLEMENTARY THOUGHT THAT QADHAFI MAY BE IN A GREATER STATE OF "RESIGNATION" THAN HITHERTO. SOME, LIKE FRENCH EMBASSY CHARGE, ARE INCLINED TO THEORY THAT QADHAFI RESIGNED ON OR ABOUT SEPT 1, THEN AGREED TO STAY ON ONLY ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS FOR FOUR MONTHS UNTIL SOME REAL UNITY HOPEFULLY ACHIEVED. THIS MIGHT ACCOUNT, BE BELIEVES, FOR LARG MEDIA'S OMISSION OF QADHAFI'S NAME AND THEIR REFERENCE TO HIM SIMPLY BY HIS TITLE. FRENCH ALSO FAVOR THEORY THAT JALLUD IS BEING DOWNGRADED, WHILE CHIEF OF STAFF YUNIS AND RCC MEMBER MUHAYSHI ARE ON THE RISE. MUHAYSHI, THEY SAY, IS DEFINITELY BEHIND SOME SHIFTS UNDER WAY IN LIBYA'S DPL REPRESENTATION ABROAD. ON OTHER HAND, TUNISIAN AMB TELLS ME MUHAYSHI'S RECENT PROMOTION (TO MAJOR) AND PUBLIC PROMINENCE SIGNIFY NOTHING MORE THAN THAT HE IS A USEFUL RCC HANDYMAN. ALSO, WE NOTE THAT JALLUD, WHO ACCOMPANIED QADHAFI TO CAIRO, STAYED ON TO DO SOME WORK ON THE UNIFIED PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TO ADDRESS LIBYAN STUDENTS.

4. COMMENT: SOMETHING IS GOING ON INTERNALLY BUT JUST WHAT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR, AS USUAL. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, WE DO NOT FAVOR THE THEORY THAT JALLUD IS BEING DOWNGRADED. OUR CURRENT GUESS IS THAT HE, YUNIS, AND POSSIBLY HUMAYDI (INTERIOR) AND AL-HUNI (GENERAL INTELLIGENCE), WOULD BE THE FRAMEWORK OF A REORGANIZED RCC TRYING TO RUN THE LARG IF QADHAFI WITHDREW NOW. THE OTHER RCC MEMBERS WOULD BE INCLUDED FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES, TO BE SURE, BUT WE DOUBT THEY WOULD WANT INDEPENDENT POWER. JOSIF

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